



# EMD

Washington Military Department  
Emergency Management Division



## Unit 5:

# Public Officials Role in National Incident Management System (NIMS)



# Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPDs)

**HSPD-5**

- Management of Domestic Incidents

**HSPD-8**

- National Preparedness

**Mandates**

- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**
- **National Response Plan (NRP)**





# NIMS & Institutionalizing ICS

- Governmental officials must:
  - Adopt NIMS through executive order, proclamation, or legislation as the jurisdiction's official incident response system.
  - Direct that incident managers and response organizations in their jurisdictions train, exercise, and use the ICS.
  - Integrate ICS into functional and system-wide emergency operations policies, plans, and procedures.
  - Conduct ICS training for responders, supervisors, and command-level officers.
  - Conduct coordinating ICS-oriented exercises that involve responders from multiple disciplines and jurisdictions.





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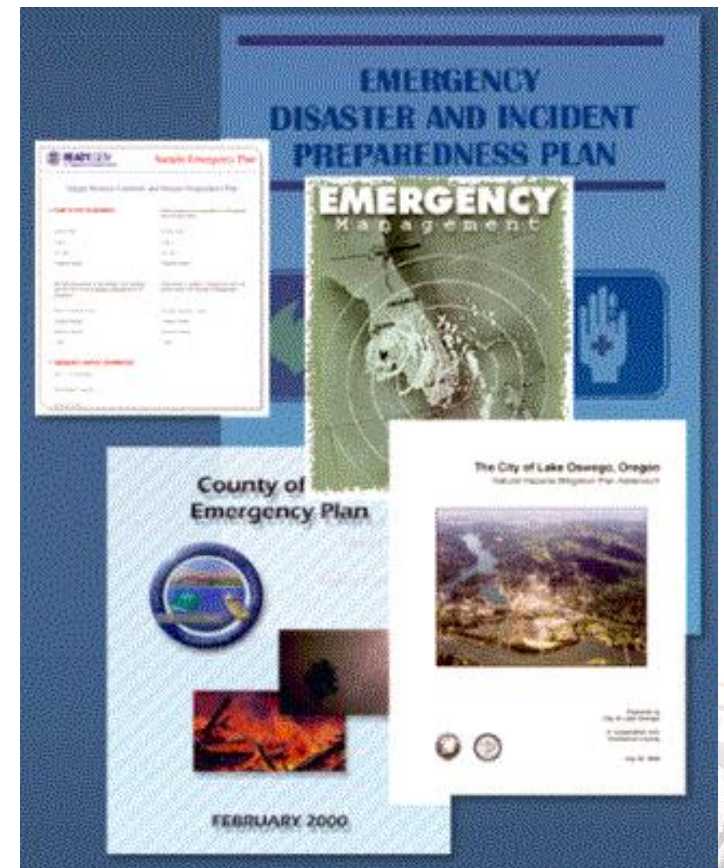


**What is the Public  
Officials Role in  
Institutionalizing NIMS?**



# Check Plans, Policies, and Laws

- Do your Jurisdiction's preparedness plans, policies, and laws:
  - Comply with NIMS, including ICS?
  - Cover all hazards?
  - Include delegations of authority (as appropriate)?
  - Include up-to-date information?





# Establish Resource Management Systems

- Do you have established systems for:
  - Describing, inventorying, requesting, and tracking resources?
  - Activating and dispatching resources?
  - Managing volunteers?
  - Demobilizing or recalling resources?
  - Financial tracking, reimbursement, and reporting?
- Do you have mutual aid agreements for obtaining resources, facilities, services, and other required support from other jurisdictions during an incident?





# Establish Communications and Information Systems

- Does your jurisdiction have protocols and procedures for:
  - Formulating and disseminating indications and warnings?
  - Formulating, executing, and communicating operational decisions?
  - Preparing for potential requirements and requests supporting incident management activities?
  - Developing and maintaining situation awareness?
- Can responders from different agencies (e.g., fire, police, public works) or mutual aid partners communicate with one another?
- Do you have a plan/budget for maintaining and replacing your emergency communication systems?







# Training, Credentialing, and Exercising

- Do you have sufficient qualified personnel to assume ICS Command and General Staff positions?
- Can you verify that personnel meet established professional standards for:
  - Training?
  - Experience?
  - Performance?
- When was the last table-top or functional exercise that practiced command and coordination functions? Did you participate in that exercise?







# Leadership

- Most importantly Executives/Senior Officials provide leadership

Leadership means . . .



- Motivating and supporting trained, on-scene responders so that they can accomplish difficult tasks under dangerous, stressful circumstances
- Instilling confidence in the public that the incident is being managed effectively





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# Questions?



# What Is ICS?

- The Incident Command System:
  - Is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept
  - Allows its users to adopt an integrated organizational structure to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries





# Incident Commander's Role

## The Incident Commander:

- Provides overall leadership for incident response
- Takes policy direction from the Executive/Senior Official
- Delegates authority to others
- Ensures incident safety
- Provides information to internal and external stakeholders
- Establishes and maintains liaison with other agencies participating in the incident
- Establishes incident objectives
- Directs the development of the Incident Action Plan





# Executive/Senior Officials' Role & Responsibilities

- Executives/Senior Officials:
  - Provide policy guidance on priorities and objectives based on situational needs and the Emergency Operations Plan
  - Oversee resource coordination and support to the on-scene command from the Emergency Operations Center or through dispatch



**Senior Official**

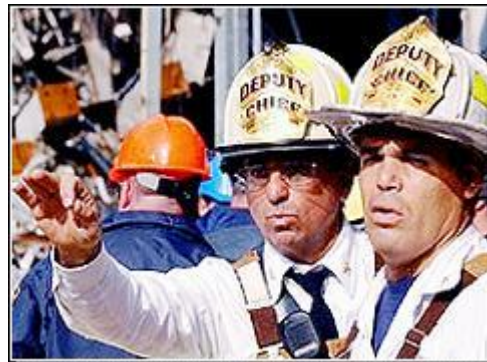


**Incident Commander**



## Executives/Senior Officials Delegate Command Authority

- Executives/Senior Officials delegate authority to the designated Incident Commander for on-scene operations
- The Incident Commander has direct tactical and operational responsibility for conducting incident management activities





# Summary: Incident Management Roles

- ***Executive/Senior Official's Role***
- You provide the following to the Incident Commander:
  - Policy
  - Mission
  - Direction
  - Authority
- ***Incident Commander's Role***
- The Incident Commander:
  - Manages the incident at the scene.
  - Keeps you informed on all important matters pertaining to the incident.

**To maintain the unity of command and safety of responders, the chain of command must NOT be bypassed**







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## Public Information and Emergencies



# Speaking with One Voice



- Public Information Must Be Coordinated and Integrated:
  - Across Jurisdictions and Across Functional Agencies
  - Among Federal, State, Local and Tribal Partners
  - With Private-Sector and Nongovernmental organizations
  - Integrate message with On-scene PIOs
  - A Joint Information System is used to help ensure coordination of messages

National Incident Management System. March 1, 2004





# Speaking with One Voice



- Each participating organization contributes to joint public information management
- Participating organizations do not lose their individual identities or responsibility for their own programs or policies

National Incident Management System. March 1, 2004





# Speaking with One Voice

- Joint Information System (JIS)
  - Information Management Tool
  - A mechanism with protocols, procedures
  - Includes all public information operations related to incident
  - Functions
    - Coordinates as each participating organization contributes to joint public information management
    - Develops and delivers messages
    - Supports decision-makers
    - Features flexibility, modularity and adaptability

National Incident Management System. March 1, 2004





# Speaking with One Voice

- Joint Information Center (JIC)
  - A single physical location which should be able to accommodate multiple field operations
  - Includes representatives from each organization involved in the incident management
  - Must have procedures and protocols to communicate and coordinate with other JICs and with appropriate components of the ICS organization

National Incident Management System. March 1, 2004





## Keys to Successful JIC Operations

- Planning staff needs, communications links, access to command staff
- Building relationships among organizations, elected officials, and PIOs
- Practice and training





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## Questions?